

The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

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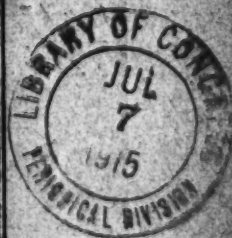
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DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper

THE OUTLOOK

Men and Food

As President of the Board of Agriculture, Lord Selborne has appointed a Departmental Committee to report what steps should be taken "for the purpose of maintaining and, if possible, increasing the present production of food in England and Wales, on the assumption that the war may be prolonged beyond the harvest of 1916." Lord Milner is to be chairman, and on the committee we find the names of several distinguished men, including four who are not members of either House. But not one woman is included, and this is the more remarkable because Lord Selborne is known as a good Suffragist. Yet even the most cringing "Anti" would hardly contend that the supply of the nation's food is entirely a male question. Those who have seen something of the enormous waste in rationing our armies and some of our military hospitals, know very well where the assistance of good women housekeepers might now be called in. And to guard against a future deficiency in the country's food, women's counsel would be equally helpful.

Women's Wages

We deal more fully with this question in our leading article, and we wish only to call attention here to two further evidences in support of our main contention. At the annual congress of the Women's Co-operative Guild in Liverpool last week, the President, Mrs. Barton, observed that, owing to the influx of women who were forced to take work at low wages for long hours, and sometimes at night, they were losing at a stroke many of the rights which had been won in the past by hard fighting, and the Congress unanimously passed a resolution against low wages, long hours, and the undercutting of men. Again, at a meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen at Nottingham on Sunday, Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., said that women's labour on railways had undoubtedly come to stay, and that the men should only insist that women must not be used as a means for reducing the prices that had been secured for particular grades by years of agitation. On the other hand, he strongly protested against the very limited minority of the men who wanted to refuse to work with women labour. We are sorry to see that men in the South Staffordshire Tramway Company have joined that limited minority, and the local Watch Committee has yielded by appointing boys between 14 and 18 to take the women's place.

Infant Mortality

As a commentary on our last week's leading article, "The Casualties at Home," we give the following figures from a Parliamentary Paper issued last week. Comparing the first quarter of 1915 with the first quarter of 1914, the births in England and Wales were 221,447 as against 217,187. The deaths of infants under one year old during the same quarters respectively were

28,417 as against 25,017. And in London alone the infant mortality for the first quarter of 1915 was 3,142 as against 2,717 for the corresponding months last year. The infant death-rate for the first and third quarters of a year is always rather higher than for the second and fourth. If the rate of this year's first quarter were maintained, the loss of infant life in England and Wales would be nearly 114,000 in the year, and after making all deductions, we cannot put it at less than 105,000. Most of this loss is due to the poverty and hard work of the mothers, and to the general depressed condition of women.

The "Enemy Woman"

We continue to hear of many hard cases in which German or Austrian women who have lived nearly all their lives in England, and are entirely English in sympathy, are now threatened with deportation; or are suddenly deported to Holland, being allowed to take only £10 of their savings with them, any remainder being left in the care of the Public Trustee. It is difficult to investigate the justice or injustice of such cases. The question appears to depend largely upon the reasonableness of the official before whom the "enemy aliens" application for exemption comes. In any case, it is obvious that governesses and other professional women who have been working here and tried to save something for their old age, suffer great hardship in being bundled off to another country at their own expense and with only £10 in their pockets, no matter how carefully the Public Trustee may guard the property they leave behind. Happily, the myth of the "governess spy" has been exploded, together with the "war babies," the "Russian troops," and the visionary bombs hidden in her portmanteau.

The British Alien

On the other hand, we gladly notice that the Government propose to extend a certain amount of just consideration to a number of women whom our absurd law treats with peculiar harshness. We mean English widows whom the law regards as "enemy aliens" because they were once married to Germans. In the House of Commons on June 17 Sir John Simon, as Home Secretary, made the following statement, which women should remember in these days, when they must be thankful for small mercies:—

We do on occasion naturalise a woman who is the widow of a German or Austrian, or other enemy husband. We naturalise such a woman if she was of British origin. She may have been as a girl an ordinary English, Scotch, Welsh, or Irish girl. She marries a German or an Austrian. Her husband has died. The effect of marriage is to change the nationality of the woman, not only during the time of marriage, but even after the marriage has been dissolved by the death of the husband. Therefore she is in law still a German or an Austrian lady. It is a very hard thing that the woman whose family connections are all British, and who, by the fact of marrying a German has acquired a German name, should have to go on with the stigma of a German name and associations—because at this time that is a stigma for a British subject—without so much as a certificate of re-naturalisation. Therefore the Home Office have, in proper cases, and we shall continue to do so, recognised that, and we have given certificates of naturalisation to women of British origin and British family whose only reason for being enemies alien at this time is that they are the widows of German or other enemy husbands.

Mr. Sheehy Skeffington

As we mentioned last week, Mr. Sheehy Skeffington, editor of the *Irish Citizen*, and always a true and valiant friend of our cause, was sentenced to six months' hard labour (with a further six months in default of finding £50 bail, making a year in all) for "making statements likely to be prejudicial to recruiting" under the Defence of the Realm Act. After a hunger-strike of six days without food and four without water, he was released in a state of extreme weakness, but under the Cat and Mouse Act must return

to prison on June 30. Hitherto this atrocious Act, passed for the purpose of breaking down the resistance of political offenders, has been used only against Suffragists. Under its provisions Mr. Skeffington would have to endure fifty-two weeks of hunger-strikes, interrupted by fortnightly periods of recuperation, for two years. We heartily commend to the notice of Mr. Birrell and other authorities the following sentences from an editorial note in this week's *Nation*:—

We imagine that the authorities who committed the folly of prosecuting Mr. Sheehy Skeffington will not commit the further folly of re-arresting him. His sentence would have been difficult to excuse even in a country where open rebellion by powerful people has not been condoned and rewarded. He takes, in our opinion, a very mistaken view of the war, but we cannot imagine a more unfortunate method of persuading people that he is wrong. The habit of prosecuting the weaker rebels while the stronger rebels are left alone might, we think, be suspended with advantage for the period of the war. Inequality before the law happens to be one of the features of the Prussian system against which we are fighting, and the suppression of criticism another.

Items of Interest

Miss Jane Addams, the well-known American Social Reformer, who presided over the Women's International Congress at The Hague, and Dr. Aletta Jacobs, President of the Dutch Committee which called the Congress, are now in London. As delegates from the Congress, they have visited the chief European capitals and been received in Paris by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in Switzerland by the President of the Swiss Confederation, in Rome by the Pope, in Vienna by the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and in Berlin by the Imperial Chancellor and the State Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Herr von Jagow.

In the *Liverpool Courier* we read that two women were sentenced to three months' imprisonment for keeping brothels (at New Brighton). For a similar offence a third woman was fined £10 or twenty-five days, and a fourth was fined £5 or twenty-five days for "assisting." The paragraph is headed "Sharp Sentences on Women." Sharp sentences! Compare these with the sentences imposed on suffragettes in their struggle to save women from this and other degradation.

We quote the following passage from a recent article by the Countess of Warwick in the *Daily Chronicle*:—

People write glibly of the war that is to end war, but let us remember that this issue depends not upon statesmen but upon the democracies of all the combatant and neutral countries. What we want is a modern Peter the Hermit or two in every country of Europe, to preach the crusade of Christianity and to bring home to the world the large price of war. There is no material reward for this service, and even recognition is likely to be posthumous; the courage required is of the fine kind that moves alone over uncharted ground. But a return of peace calls for its heroes of thought to do battle with all the evils that make it possible for men who have no quarrel to assemble in their millions for mutual destruction.

We gladly draw attention to the matinee to be given at the Palace Theatre next Tuesday, June 29, for the extension of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women. About £25,000 is needed. The medical staff of the Women's Military Hospital in Endell Street among others contributing fifty guinea stalls for their patients. We need not remind our readers of the "Royal Free's" splendid record in regard to the medical training of women.

Articles and News contributed for insertion in **VOTES FOR WOMEN** should be sent to The Editors, **VOTES FOR WOMEN**, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C., at the earliest possible date, and in no case later than first post Monday morning prior to the publication of the paper.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1915.

A NATIONAL DANGER AHEAD

Equal pay for equal work is an elementary principle of right-dealing which cannot be violated without damage to the health and stability of the nation. Apart altogether from the moral baseness of the employer who stoops at the present time to exploit cheap labour, and so reaps personal advantage from his country's need, the mere practical question of adjustment, the bare dull economics of our national situation, require a measure of investigation far in excess of anything which politicians or journalists seem in general inclined to vouchsafe them. Let us see how we stand.

Before the war there were nearly seven million women in employment for pay. The war has removed from industry a number of men—a number not, for obvious reasons, officially stated, but frequently estimated in responsible newspapers as "over two millions," as "about three millions," even as "three or four millions." Into the details of displacement and replacement it is unnecessary to go. Obviously, by the end of the war the number of girls and women in industry will not fall far short of—will almost certainly, indeed, exceed—ten millions. And the overwhelming majority of these women will be employed at wages far lower than the wages of men. Mr. Runciman recently told the representatives of various women's organisations that the women "registered" for war-work were to receive the same rates as men—as far as piece-rates were concerned. Since the statement was specifically limited to piece-rates, it amounted to just nothing at all. But suppose it had amounted to something. Suppose it really were the intention of the Government to see, if only in Government work itself, that wages were equal for men and women. Suppose those wages in those works were equal—what then? Immediately (by one of the few economic laws which are really laws, because they correspond to facts) labour would be drawn from other industries to Government work, and private employers would be compelled to put up their wages. A re-adjustment would take place, by which the nation would profit infinitely in health and wealth. Is the Government giving any proof, are most municipal authorities giving any proof, are private employers giving any proof, of a patriotic desire on their part for such re-adjustment? The answer is all too lamentably in the negative.

Ordinarily the average wage of men is nearly 26s., the average wage of women nearly 11s. a week. One would have expected any decently patriotic person to jump at the chance which the present need for women's work offers of overthrowing this monstrous inequality. Far from that, we hear from all over the country of cases in which women are being exploited. It is not universally so. At Newcastle and Cardiff, we understand, wages and conditions are equal for the tramway employees of both sexes. But we hear of other places where women are employed as tramway workers at 14s. a week, as agricultural labourers at 10s. a week, as lift-women at 15s. a week, as Government clerks at

18s. a week—in all cases replacing men who earned considerably higher sums, and shamefully little at that. And most of these occupations are nobly remunerated in comparison with the unspeakably "sweated" industries which still exist!—which, indeed, in a special sense exist more than ever, since, with the rise in the cost of living, people starve more bitterly than ever on a "starvation" wage. After all, it requires some particular gift or training, some outstanding qualities of physical or mental agility, to be a tram-conductor—as compared, anyway, to the state of physical and mental exhaustion to which people can be reduced and still labour away at "sweated" toil such as is involved in many of the sub-leb contracts habitually responsible for much Government work.

The Government, indeed, is deeply to blame in this matter, and not only for setting a bad example in actual wage-paying. The late Government was responsible—will the present one continue in the same sin?—for the refusal of those citizen rights which, if granted, would long ago have guarded the economic position of women and prevented such calamities as threaten us now. We are not concerned at the moment to accuse individual employers or employing bodies. But the general fact is common knowledge. Women are replacing men at "under-cutting" rates, and, side by side with that, comes the relaxation of Trade Union regulations. It is not our business here to discuss that relaxation or those regulations, except in so far as the change will facilitate the substitution of cheap female labour for the usual male labour. Is it possible our rulers do not see the national disaster to which they are heading? The thing is so vast, so perilous, so terrible, that it is no exaggeration to say our national greatness may go hopelessly to pieces on it, even at the end of the most successful war that our most sanguine hopes can anticipate.

For consider: When at the very least two millions of men return to find their places filled by women who are doing their work, sometimes better than they did it themselves, sometimes worse, but, on the whole, to much the same effect as they, and at a far lower rate, what will happen? The men have been promised that Trade Union rules shall instantly come into force again, and that the women shall be immediately ejected to make room for the men returned. For this thing *not* to be done would be an outrageous injustice to the men, would embitter them against the women, and would give rise to a real sex war, in which all chance of progress and democracy would be lost for a generation. For this thing *to* be done would be an outrageous injustice to the women, who would be thrown out of work without compensation and—this is what we must expect a male Government to take advantage of—without the political weapon of self-preservation. This is the fatal dilemma to which we are—not drifting, but rushing, apparently by the deliberate will and intention of our rulers. If nothing but the well-being of women were at issue, it would be understandable that such a ghastly future should be courted by those who have always shown themselves hostile or indifferent to women's claims. But in the first place the present Government contains several men who have not so shown themselves, but have led us to expect better things; and in the second place, it is not women's position only that is at issue. The industrial upheaval that is being invited may involve famine, riots, the very dissolution of our social life. We take no pleasure in calling attention to what our rulers ought to see for themselves; but we do insist that true patriotism consists, not in tying one's hands and delivering oneself bound into the power of such rulers, but in fighting by every means of protest and persuasion the doom which threatens us all.

THE GENTLE GIANT

By Henry W. Nevinson

When Madame Tissant's son was born, the neighbours congratulated her upon his size and strength.

"Mark my word," said a grandmother of experience, "that child will live to be a giant."

"He's too gentle for any such thing," Madame Tissant retorted; for her notion of giants was founded on fairy tales.

But the way the boy grew was almost alarming. At one year old he was too heavy to carry, and the neighbours called him "Cuckoo-chick." At two an artist from Paris made a picture of him as the Infant Hercules strangling enormous pythons. At ten he wore his father's trousers. He began to outgrow them, and the question of his size became serious.

The Curé was consulted.

"God has made a giant of him," he said, "and we must accept the Divine Will. Let him be a giant."

"It's a good business, and requires no education," said the father.

"But my Pierre has a gentle nature," the mother objected.

"Madame," said the Curé, "it is possible to be virtuous even in a palace of flesh."

So the boy was fed and exercised with a view to his future profession. And though his training availed nothing towards the subjugation of his gentleness, it was entirely successful in regard to size. At school he was a popular hero because he could walk about with a child on his head, two on his back, and one under each arm. He could swing you up to a height that gave a tingling sense of giddiness, and it was believed that the schoolmaster would have felt afraid of him if Pierre had not always shown consideration.

When he presented himself for his military training the officer jumped at the sight.

"My dear friend," he said, standing on tip-toe to pat his shoulder, "France cannot afford you! Double uniform, double rations! Never in my life! You would reduce the ranks to insignificance. The drum-major would feel hurt. My friend, you are too large for modern war."

Then Pierre entered upon his self-supporting profession in earnest. Since his own village was accustomed to seeing him for nothing, he started on tour through Provence. Within a year or two he acquired such fame that no fair was thought complete without him, and when he crossed the Channel his reputation was advertised as European. His mother observed, with some concern, that no giant's characteristics made their appearance, but she was proud of his success, and accompanied him on his tour to take the money at the doors and purchase the requisite ells of cloth for his suits.

When the war broke out, the giant rejoiced. Making a livelihood by being stared at provided insufficient scope for his energies. "Now," he said, "I can accomplish something salutary."

"Nothing is salutary in war," said his mother.

"But I have devised a new military operation," he replied.

I was on the pier at Boulogne when he landed, returning from a Bank Holiday engagement on Hampstead Heath. He stood on deck, conspicuous but modest, in rear of the hustling crowd. His round face shone high above them, like a lighthouse above the storm. When everyone had passed, he advanced. The gangway creaked under his enormous boots. The porters stared at him, and turned aside to laugh. The passport official touched his hat and exclaimed, "Pass, Monsieur Tissant! You no more need a passport than the President of the Republic."

The giant held out a hand so vast that even I, who have seen much, was astonished. Into it the official's hand disappeared, like a diver into a wave.

"The object of your return, Monsieur?" asked the agent of police on his left.

"To serve our country," the giant replied.

"The place of your military training?" asked the agent.

"My service requires no training," said the giant.

"He'll be a semaphore," whispered one porter to another.

"They'll climb him for an observation post," said another.

"He'll take a Saucepan all to himself," said a third. Now a "Saucepan" is a "Jack Johnson."

"Pass, madame the mother of Monsieur Tissant! France honours you," said the official, saluting the little woman who emerged, clinging to one of her son's coat-pockets.

"Monsieur desires a porter to the barracks?" asked a powerful porter in light-blue blouse.

"If you are going in that direction I shall be delighted to carry you," said the giant, and we watched him disappear down the long road, like a ship traversing the horizon.

Some weeks later I was again in Boulogne, and saw the neatly-dressed little mother sitting on a doorstep in a side street. She was stitching at what appeared to be a huge blue tablecloth, but was a French soldier's overcoat. At the same moment two Corporals came up, and, after polite introductions, exclaimed simultaneously, "Madame the mother of our giant, our Colonel has sent us to demand that you quietly withdraw your son as being subversive of discipline."

"My son is too gentle to subvert anything," said the mother.

"On the contrary, madame," the soldiers replied, "he subverts war."

"You see, madame," one of them continued, "it's like this. Your son is too big for the trenches. His head and chest stick up above the parapet. No enemy could miss him, and in marching to and from the communication trench he draws fire like a steeple. So our Captain

kept him in the billets to cook and amuse our evenings-off. But the giant complained it was impossible to apply his military operation there. Day and night he was always trying to creep back to the firing line, and one afternoon he arrived. We jammed him down, and dug a cavern for his legs. So there he knelt, never firing, but awaiting, as he said, the opportune moment for his operation of war.

"Just before dawn the enemy made his usual attack, pounding our trenches with big guns and then rushing forward. Your son did nothing till the guns stopped and the enemy came quite close. Then he climbed out in front of the trench. A Boche dashed at him, striking upwards at his stomach with a bayonet. Your son just stooped down, wrenched the rifle from him, and threw it away.

"Good morning, sir," he said; 'enchanted to make your acquaintance.'

"He held out that hand of his. The Boche stared as if he had seen a ghost.

"The next time we saw your son he was sharing his rations with that Boche, in a ruined farm.

"Let me introduce my amiable German friend, sir," he said to our Captain. So the Colonel had him arrested for breach of discipline."

"And now," interrupted the other Corporal, "he is confined in the Zoological Gardens at —. They have been converted into a military prison, and, saving your presence, your son inhabits the giraffe-house."

"So our Colonel," continued the first speaker, "respectfully asks you to have him removed as being mentally afflicted. For he is unwilling to order an honour to France to be shot."

The mother rose and began folding up the blue cloth, as one reefs a mainsail.

"I always did say," she sobbed, "that my son was too gentle to make a proper giant."

THE MAN-RULED WORLD

We feel rather doubtful over Mr. Harold Begbie's assertion in the Foreword to his latest novel, that "it was written with no moral purpose," and that in its completed form "no shadow of a purpose was allowed to cross its pages." If that is so, why did he write anything so terrible? It seems to us that he does himself less than justice in denying that he wrote "Millstone" with any other object than that of telling "an authentic story of human life"; for to us it is the most awful indictment, in the form of fiction, of a world ruled by men only, that has appeared since Elizabeth Robins's "Where are you going to?" What is more, Mr. Begbie practically admits that he sees this himself, when he goes on to say in his preface that the war intervened before he finished correcting his proofs, and he wishes to add now that in the "Great work of reconstructing human society which so soon will confront us"

Surely the foundations must be laid in reverence for women. Difficult as the question of women is, more difficult now than before this world-wide calamity of destruction, at least we must be rid of that inexpressible devilry which in defiling multitudes of women poisons the very springs of life and in degrading hosts of little children hangs about the neck of our civilisation the millstone of God.

The story hinges on the terrible fate of a little girl of eight who is entrapped for the purposes of prostitution, and is only found by her parents when she is dying, bereft of her reason, in a Lock hospital. Haunting as the scene by her bedside is, we cannot help wishing it might be read by all those adult men and women who refuse to believe that this horrible traffic goes on. If it only impresses them as exaggerated, that is something; for it may send them in search of proofs, and to stop their unquestioning acquiescence in the present state of things is a great

point gained. But Mr. Begbie ends on a note of hope; for, as he shows in his preface, he believes in the future of womanhood. The most human character in the book—old Miss Roach—says in reply to the young engineer who asks her why this thing has not been stopped before—

"We are governed by men, Mr. Baverstock; and a blow at this traffic would be a blow at that section of society which still exercises the greatest power of government, that section of society whose safety depends on hushing up the abominations of vice. But we are going to stop it all the same. We are only holding our hands, believe me, till we are perfectly certain that our blow will shatter the iniquity once and for all. Wait a little, wait a little!"

That women have waited long enough for the power to strike this blow will be the reflection of all Suffragists who read Mr. Harold Begbie's remarkable book.

BOOKS RECEIVED

"Millstone." By Harold Begbie. (London: Constable. Price 6s.)

"Hyssop." By M. T. H. Sadler. (London: Constable. Price 6s.)

"The Prussian Terror." By Alexandre Dumas (London: Stanley Paul. Price 6s.)

"Pioneer Work for Women." By Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, with introduction by Mrs. Fawcett. (London: Dent and Sons. Price 1s. net.)

"Sex Differentiation in Salary." By H. F. Normanton, B.A. (London: National Federation of Women Teachers. Price 3d.)

"Is Britain Blameless?" Revised Edition, with letter from G. Bernard Shaw. By A. Fenner Brockway. (Manchester: National Labour Press. Price 1d.)

"On the Retention of the Word 'Obey' in the Marriage Service." By J. Wickham Legg. (London: Wells, Gardner, and Darton. Price 2s. 6d. net.)

"Millstone." By Harold Begbie. (London: Constable and Co. Price 6s.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DANES

DUTCH SUFFRAGISTS ON DENMARK'S TRIUMPH

By a Leader of the Suffrage Movement in Holland

For a long time past the Dutch Suffragists have been eagerly watching the progress of the revision of the Constitution in Denmark, for already in March, 1911, all the political parties in the Rigsdag had declared their belief in the enfranchisement of women, and, if they still opposed the change of the Constitution, it was for other reasons than a disapproval of political equality for men and women.

Those who know that Holland, too, is about to change her Constitution, will readily understand with what eager eyes Dutch Suffragists have been looking on the slow progress of the different stages of discussion of Mr. Bernsen's Bill in the Lower and Upper House, in Committees and Commissions, through debates and parliamentary obstruction. Near as victory seemed in June, 1914, at the time of the great third Scandinavian Meeting, it appeared to have got out of reach in the summer of 1914, when the European war broke out. Yet suddenly, in April, 1915, the respite of party strife, which has characterised the past year in the neutral countries, brought to Danish women the realisation of their desire for enfranchisement, and King Christian X. sanctioned the new Constitution which gives women suffrage and eligibility on exactly the same terms as to men. This is a reason for rejoicing among all true women, but doubly so for the women of Holland, who may hope soon to see their country follow the Danish example.

So on June 5 the officers of the Dutch Woman

Suffrage Association asked to be received in deputation by Mr. Borregaard, the Danish Consul-General, who fills the place of the recently deceased Ambassador. He received them most graciously in his house at The Hague. The Vice-President, Mrs. van Balen, addressed him in the absence of the President, Dr. Aletta Jacobs, who is abroad on an errand on behalf of the International Women's Congress, held in April. Mrs. van Balen complimented the Danish Government and the men of Denmark on their act of justice towards the women, which she hoped would not only prove beneficial to Denmark, but at the same time show the world in these dark war-times that the light of equity is still shining. Mr. Borregaard replied, thanking the deputation in the name of the Danish King and Government.

In the evening the Dutch W.S.A. had called a public meeting in the hall of Diligentes, beautifully decorated in the Danish and Suffrage colours, where a choir sang the Danish hymns and some suffrage songs. There was a large audience, and after a welcome from the President to the Danish Consul-General and his family and some other Danish guests on the platform, it was resolved to send telegrams of thanks and congratulations to the King, the Cabinet and the Parliament of Denmark. Miss Martina Kramers gave a short account of what the Danish women had done to show that they deserved enfranchisement, after which Mr. Marchant, M.P., gave an address on the lesson which Dutch politicians should learn from their Danish colleagues. Mr. Buntsen, a Danish

journalist residing in Holland, returned thanks in a Dutch address, which was greatly appreciated by the audience.

The Dutch Woman Suffrage Association has sent the following letter to the two great Danish W.S. organisations:—

Dear Fellow Workers,—Saturday, June 5, will be written in golden letters in the history of the women's movement in Denmark, since it brings you the fulfilment of your dearest wish—political equality for men and women. Our most cordial sympathies go out to you, and we beg you to accept our warm congratulations, in which the public meeting, held at The Hague, joins heartily.

You, Danish women, have set us the example of untiring work for the Suffrage cause, and of judicious action in the field of politics, to show the men representing your country's people in your parliament that the women's desire to bear their part of the state's burden is not futile, and that its granting cannot fail to prove a boon to the nation.

We have no doubt that, now that the time has come for you to show your ability to serve your country in the capacity of fully enfranchised citizens, as you have already done by the possession of the municipal franchise, you will wholly realise the great expectations with which the world looks upon you. And we feel grateful to the Danish men for this evidence of their conviction that men and women together can best govern a community consisting of men and women. By thus promoting the common welfare they gave at the same time a splendid example to the world how a small country can be great, and we thank Denmark for showing that, amid the clouds of war that now cover Europe, the light of justice is still shining. With our thanks for what you have done, dear sisters in the Suffrage cause, we send you our very best wishes for the future.

Martina G. Kramers.

SPECIAL U.S. CONFERENCES OUR FIRST THURSDAY AFTERNOON

The first of our series of weekly meetings was held on Thursday afternoon, June 17, in the small Portman Rooms. Mrs. Ayrton Gould, who took the chair, announced that similar meetings would be held every Thursday afternoon for the purpose of watching over the whole woman's movement and the position of women all over the world. Unless women were very vigilant, the end of the war might mean the breaking down of democracy and the triumph of the forces of reaction. It was most important that suffragists should be on their guard and ready to deal promptly with any situation that might arise.

Women and the Civil Service

Miss Esther Roper reminded the audience that before war broke out a Royal Commission was sitting to discuss the opening of certain branches of the Civil Service to women. It had already made the recommendation that where the work done by men and women was equal, the pay should be equal. Since the outbreak of war no effort had been made to observe this principle. On the contrary, male assistant clerks in the Post Office have been granted an increase of wages, while an entirely new class of women workers has been created who are already undercutting the men. The women civil servants, who have always stood for equality, have protested against this introduction of a new grade of workers, which has already had the effect of reducing the current wage for clerical work.

While willing to release men who wish to enlist, they are very anxious that they shall not be used for the purpose of forcing men into the army, as they fear may happen unless the greatest vigilance is maintained. At present, if a man from a certain department enlists, it is the practice of the service to "lend" a woman from another department to do his work, but at her original salary, not that of the man whose place she is temporarily filling. The women are fully alive to the dangers of this, and demand that the principle of equal pay for equal work shall be rigidly maintained. They further demand that separate examinations for men and women shall be abolished.

Votes and the Coalition

Mr. Laurence Housman, in the course of a most interesting speech, said suffragists had always been told that women's suffrage, being a non-party question, could not be settled by a party Government. For the first time in the suffrage movement a non-party Government had come into being. This was obviously the opportunity for which suffragists had so long been waiting. He repeated an anecdote of Whistler, who, when asked by a lady

why he had given the title of "A Harmony in Brown" to a picture in which all the colours of the rainbow were to be seen, retorted, "Madam, when Beethoven wrote a sympathy in F, he did not write it all on one note. Fool! Fool! Fool!"

Suffragists must not be content with saying to the Government, "Fool! Fool! Fool!" It is not enough to demand the vote alone. Suffrage principles must be applied to every department of our national life.

The Need of Special Vigilance

In opening the discussion, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence said that the woman's movement to-day was in a more critical position than it had ever been before. The idea that suffrage propaganda must be suspended for the present was absolutely unintelligible to her. Unless women made a most resolute fight, their position after the war would be worse than ever. Employers of labour were already reducing the standard of wages by exploiting women, and unless this were put a stop to, we should be faced by a sex war in the industrial world more bitter and more terrible than we had ever conceived possible. She should like to see a deputation of women going to the Coalition Government to urge that it should follow the example of Denmark and create a united nation by enfranchising women.

A short discussion followed. The next conference of the series is being held on our day of publication, June 24, and, as we announced last week, Miss Madeline Doty, Prison Commissioner of New York State, whose recent article in the *Nation* upon her visit to Berlin has attracted much attention, is speaking in company with Mrs. John Scurr and others.

A REAL PEOPLE'S CLUB

For Men and Women Alike

An interesting experiment, originating in the local Patrol Committee, has been tried in Reading since March 1. On that date a magnificent room, lent by a leading firm of drapers in the town, was thrown open as a recreation room for men and women. From the very first it proved enormously popular, as many as 900 men and women frequently being present in the course of a single evening. The British Women's Temperance Association provided excellent refreshments at low prices; there were tables for writing and reading, others for quiet games; bagatelle boards, a miniature billiard table, and, above all, dancing and music.

From the beginning the enterprise was very carefully organised, and the Committee kept in view the possibility of converting the recreation room into a permanent club. Thus they endeavoured to get in touch more particularly with the girls who frequented it, since they felt that the success of any club for both sexes must depend largely on the tone established by the women members. The response was eager and gratifying, and

it was quickly seen that the girls were longing for a chance to help themselves and others. By means of small tea-parties and discussions, the Committee got to know what was desired, and at the present moment some 200 young women have given in their names for "military drill" and first-aid classes, many of them having already proved by their regular attendance and diligence that they appreciate their opportunities.

When a large proportion of the soldiers billeted in Reading for the winter left the town in the middle of May other premises had to be secured, as the big room was no longer available. This seemed a suitable moment to issue probationary membership cards, and to institute a charge of 1d. a week—both steps in the direction of a genuine club.

Meanwhile the Committee decided to make a bold move. They announced their intention of holding a public meeting to collect funds. Lady Wantage was secured as chairman, and on Saturday, June 12, about 400 people assembled in the hall of University College, Reading, to hear about the proposed club and its needs. Influential support was given to the project by Lady Wantage, the Mayor of Reading, Miss Picton-Turbervill (Y.W.C.A.), the Rev. Fitzwilliam Gillmor, and the chairman (Councillor Edith M. Sutton) and the treasurer (Countess Gurowska) of the Recreation Room Committee. About £300 was promised as donations or subscriptions.

The proposed club, among the first of its kind, differs in several respects from the "patriotic clubs" opened under the auspices of the Y.W.C.A. The Reading Club will admit on equal terms both men and women, who will share together the responsibilities and privileges of membership. Again, in addition to the executive committee, there will be a committee of management, on which the members of both sexes will be fully represented. Moreover the club is not intended as an emergency war scheme, but as a permanent institution, which will provide a place where men and women of the working classes can meet together for social and recreative purposes under safe and comfortable conditions. Such clubs are felt to be a real need in all large towns where men and women engaged in factories, shops, domestic service, and manual labour of all kinds have no place for social intercourse with each other except the streets, picture palaces, and public houses. The desire to meet is right and natural, and by making opportunities for young people to see each other, it is hoped to get rid of the furtive attitude which is the beginning of most wrong relationships.

In Reading the women who started the scheme have decided that the permanent club must be run by and for men and women together. The new executive committee is now in process of formation, and if only sufficient help is forthcoming to provide for rent, equipment and upkeep, it is hoped that the new club may be an example in little of the advantages of co-operation. Information may be had from Professor Edith Morley, University College, Reading.

OUR NEW DEPARTURE

SPECIAL WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS

The great upheaval caused by the war in all conditions of life is particularly affecting the lives of women, whether they are employed in "industry" or out of it. In order to keep abreast of the situation, which is constantly changing, the U.S. have arranged a special series of weekly meetings, to be held in the Small Hall, Portman Rooms, on Thursday afternoons, at 3 p.m., to discuss the varying aspects of the woman movement from week to week. The speakers will be "experts" in their several subjects, and after the speeches an open discussion will follow. Admission free.

Last week the first meeting was held, and sufficient funds were raised to pay the cost of that occasion. There were also several promises of weekly subscriptions, including those from Mr. A. E. Powell, £1; Miss Marshall, £1; Miss V. Cooke, 10s.; Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, 10s.; Miss Pethick, 10s.; Mrs. Maitland, 5s.; and Lieut. Geo. L. Brown, A.S.C., 10s.

We earnestly call upon our members and all visitors to the Conferences to support this new undertaking to the utmost of their power.

THE HAGUE CONGRESS*

The British Committee have now issued their record of the Women's International Congress, held at The Hague from April 28 to May 1 of this year. It will be remembered that though 180 British women gave in their names to attend, the Home Office selected only 24 for permits, and that an Admiralty order, closing the North Sea "for strong naval reasons," and holding good only for the two or three days when it was possible for the delegates to reach Holland in time, just prevented their attendance—one of the most peculiar coincidences in the history of the war. In consequence, our country was represented by only three delegates, as against twenty-eight from Germany. Other countries sent larger numbers still, the Netherlands themselves supplying 1,000 members.

Of course, we cannot recommend this record to Anti-Suffragists of the "war-at-any-price" party. But all Suffragists and all who desire what the Prime Minister has called "an honourable and

* "Towards Permanent Peace." (Published by the British Committee of the International Congress, 37, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster. Price 2d.)

permanent peace" may read it with profit; for they will find in it the weapons of truth with which to confound the scurrilous attacks and stupid libels directed against the Congress by "Antis" and the advocates of irreconcilable war. The pamphlet contains a list of all the resolutions laid before the Congress, and a brief summary of the debate on each. A few excellent articles upon the general subject are included, together with a sympathetic letter from Frenchwomen of high distinction, who, to their regret, were prevented from being present. We may quote part of one paragraph from this letter:—

"We have faith in women's power, and our greatest hope is in their action during this period of inexpressible culpability. We say with you, 'We must speak, we must act.' It is too often and persistently said, 'We must act after the war.' We only ask one question of those who demand of us that as an act of patriotism we should be silent: For how long?"

The pamphlet also contains a brief essay of singular beauty by Romain Rolland, entitled "The Eternal Antigone," in which this great writer upholds for women the example of that noblest character in Greek tragedy, who saw only her brothers in the enemies of the State, and, careless of man's temporary and short-sighted laws of hatred, clung, at risk of her life, to those laws eternal which are not of to-day or yesterday, but are proclaimed by God, and of their origin no one knoweth.

VIOLET HUNT'S NEW BOOK*

There is a good deal in "The House of Many Mirrors" that recalls Miss Hunt's earlier novel, "White Rose of Weary Leaf," which we have always considered her masterpiece. There is the same ruthless analysis of unpleasant people, the same remorseless presentation of sordid motives, the same beating of caged people against gilt bars that they do not really want to break, though one feels they easily could. But in the earlier and greater book the author achieves the rare feat of making ugliness beautiful, and out of a series of revolting incidents the story of Amy is woven with a charm that is both subtle and arresting. Now it seems to us that Violet Hunt is just as clever and just as unsentimental in "The House of Many Mirrors," but she fails to move us in the same way. It is difficult to say

* "The House of Many Mirrors." By Violet Hunt (London: Stanley Paul and Co. Price 6s.)

exactly where the difference lies. The magnificent unselfishness of Rosamond Pleydell is as great as that of Amy Steevens, and in both cases the man, the lover, is not worth the woman's sacrifice, judged by ordinary standards. Perhaps it is that the idle, nervous manner of Rosamond's life, its expenditure of big qualities to attain little ends, contrasts poorly with the more interesting struggle of the poorer woman's existence in the other book. And in any case, it is not fair to judge Violet Hunt by ordinary standards. Her utter lack of sentimentality, her love of dissecting little, mean, vicious men and women, and then in a flash showing us something approaching nobility in them, mark her off from all other living writers of fiction in this country. If one does not like that sort of thing one can always read Marie Corelli.

"SAME HERE!" SAYS "JOHN BULL"

When cows fall ill the Government proceeds to take alarm,
And sends a veterinarian to sanitise the farm.
The cow herself is put to bed and plied with drugs and pills,
And Uncle Sam comes forward, when she's cured, to pay the bills.
But when a baby falls in need of medicine and care—
The Government contends that that is none of its affair.
When pigs and lambs are threatened by a deadly pestilence,
Their tender lives are guarded at the Government's expense.
They're coddled, nursed, and dieted until they're well and fat,
And never reckon of the cost—for Uncle Sam pays that.
But when an epidemic marks the babies for its own,
The Government, untroubled, lets them fight it out alone.
Some day, perhaps, when all the pork has lavishly been passed,
When every scrap of patronage is handed out at last,
When all our noble congressmen have got all they desire,
And have attained whatever heights to which they may aspire—
To unknown heights of common sense the Government will leap,
And do as much for mothers as it does for cows and sheep.

— "The Chicago Examiner."

COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES

Assault on Wife by Constable

The *Morning Advertiser* (June 15) reports case of a constable charged at Westminster Police Court with assaulting his wife and threatening to cut her throat with a razor. Mr. Francis said the wife was quite justified in bringing the charge.

Sentence: Ordered to find a surety in £10 to be of good behaviour for twelve months, and to enter into recognisances for the same period to keep the peace and be of good behaviour.

Wife Illused

The *Morning Advertiser* (June 17) reports case of a coal porter charged at the Thames Police Court, before Mr. Leicester, with assaulting his wife. The prosecutrix, who had black eyes, stated that after her husband punched her about the face he knocked her down and kicked her. He also bit her on the thumb. A witness proved seeing Ryan dragging his wife along by her hair, and the female gaoler stated that the woman's arms and shoulders were bruised, while on the chest were fourteen bruises. She was granted a separation order.

Sentence: Three months' hard labour.

Indecently Assaulting Girls

The *Kent Messenger and Maidstone Telegraph* (June 19) reports case of a music teacher, charged at the Kent Assizes with indecently assaulting three girls. It was stated that prisoner's behaviour was very bad, but no harm had been done. Evidence showed that it was his persistent practice to corrupt such little girls, and he had previously been convicted.

Sentence: Eighteen months' hard labour.

HEAVY SENTENCES

Theft by a Constable

The *News of the World* (June 13) reports case of a constable charged at Greenwich with stealing a silver watch, chain, and medal which had been lent to him by another constable on March 14. Prisoner said he really had no intention of stealing the watch, and meant to give it back but had not the courage. Mr. Halkett said that theft by a police officer merited the most severe punishment.

Sentence: Three months' hard labour.

The Confidence Trick

The *Morning Advertiser* (June 15) reports case of a man charged at the Guildhall, before Sir John Baddeley, with stealing £10 10s. by means of the confidence trick. Prisoner pleaded guilty, declaring that it was his first offence, and that he had committed it through getting into bad company.

Sentence: Six months' hard labour.

False Pretences

The *Daily Mail* (June 19) reports case of two men, charged at the Old Bailey before the Recorder, with obtaining goods and credit by false pretences. One of them had gone about pretending to be an army officer. The Recorder said he was a pest to society, and had never worked.

Sentences: Four years' and three years' penal servitude.

THE VALUE OF WOMEN

The above cases are telling instances of the comparative value set upon property and women by the ordinary law and practice of magistrates. In one case it will be observed that a police constable got three months' hard labour for stealing a watch, and the magistrate remarked that theft by a police officer merited the most severe punishment. In the contrasted case a police constable was released after finding surety and entering into recognisances, though he had assaulted his wife and threatened her life with a razor. The magistrate appears to have made no remark to the effect that brutality and murderous threats by a police officer merit any severe punishment.

In one of the second pair of contrasted cases a man who had violently struck, bit, and kicked his wife, also dragging her along the ground by the hair, was sentenced to three months' hard labour; while another man, for obtaining ten guineas by the silly old confidence trick (his first offence), was sentenced to exactly double the time. If we could reduce crimes to terms of money value in proportion to the sentences, we should thus discover that in the opinion of the law a woman's eyes, face, chest, thumb, other limbs, and hair are worth just five guineas, everything included.

As to the third pair of cases, the iniquity of the contrast is too flagrant to require comment.

A TRUE "WAR BABY" CASE

In the *Daily News* of last Tuesday Mr. Arnold Bennett mentions the following case of a mother's unjust treatment by the War Office:—

A young woman in an excellent situ-

ation, having dominion over eight other employees, fell in love with a Reserve man who was in trade. He offered to marry her, but sudden mobilisation prevented the ceremony. A child was born in December, 1914, the mother being incapacitated for work during fourteen weeks. She never asked her lover for any money, nor did he offer money, until after the birth of the child. In February of this year the father made an allotment in favour of his child. In March the Local Pensions Committee recommended the mother for full allowance as for wife and child. No allowance had been paid at the end of April. In April, and again in May, application was made to the proper quarter, in vain. On May 8 the truth was out. The War Office, through the regimental paymaster, refused any allowance, so that the mother could only receive the sum, necessarily small, allotted to her out of his pay by the father. Thus the unfortunate creature suffers heavily through her lover's patriotism.

The explanation of the official refusal is twofold. First, the mother had never had money from the father before the war; secondly, the child was born after mobilisation. From which it appears that unless an unmarried mother has forfeited her independence before the war, the War Office, when independence is no longer possible, will let her starve. Whereas if she has consented to be a kept mistress, the War Office will in any case look after her. From which it appears also that a soldier's illegitimate child born before August 4 is entitled to State help, whereas a soldier's illegitimate child born after August 4 is entitled to die. Note that this rule will apply to all "war-babies," whose mothers must expect nothing because the fathers are away in Flanders "saving our national existence." This wants altering.

COMING EVENTS

The United Suffragists will hold a public meeting in the Small Portman Rooms, Baker Street, W., on Thursday, June 24, from 3 to 5 p.m. (See page 319.)

The Woman's Theatre, under the direction of the Actresses' Franchise League, will hold the last of their series of War Relief Matinees at the London Pavilion on Friday, June 25, at 2.30 p.m.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage will hold a service of intercession at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square, on Saturday, June 26, at 3 p.m. Address by the Rev. O. C. Quick. All members and friends are invited.

The United Suffragists will hold a meeting in Hyde Park on Sunday, June 27, at 5.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Gow and others. U.S. members are particularly requested to attend these Hyde Park meetings.

The Forward Cymric Suffrage Union will hold a meeting in Hyde Park (near the Marble Arch), on Sunday, June 27, at 3 p.m.

The Queen will be present at a matinee which is to be given at the Palace Theatre on Tuesday, June 29, to raise funds for the extension of the Medical School of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women. The entertainment has been organised by the Duchess of Marlborough and Lady Arthur Paget, and all the best known members of the theatrical profession have promised their services. Tickets can be obtained either from Sunderland House, Curzon Street, or at the box-office of the Palace Theatre.

The Women's Freedom League will hold a public meeting at the Fabian

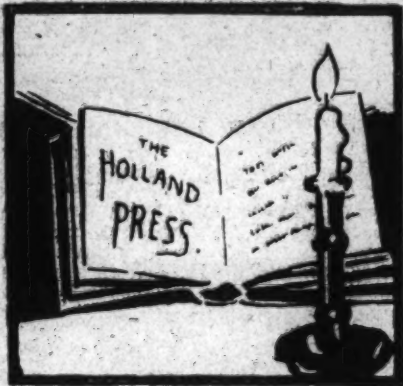
Hall, 25, Tothill Street, Westminster, on Wednesday, June 30, at 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson on "Feminism and the War Baby," and Miss Nina Boyle.

The United Suffragists will hold a public meeting in the Small Portman Rooms, Baker Street, W., on Thursday, July 1, from 3 to 5 p.m. (See page 319.)

A SUMMER SALE

During the summer, when the care of one's feet is such a necessary consideration, a sale of boots and shoes should be a particularly welcome event. Messrs. Hanan-Gingell, of 328, Oxford Street, W., are offering shoes at exceptionally low prices. Boots suitable for all kinds of sport may be obtained at reduced prices, and for walking or evening wear a vast selection is illustrated in their catalogue just issued.

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**ECONOMICAL
FOODS**

A review of the present situation shows,
that in so far as the cost of foods is
concerned, there is no improvement.

The necessity for comestibles of an economical nature is, in consequence, felt more keenly to-day than ever before. There are many commodities, such as tapioca, rice, macaroni, and rolled oats, the exceptional health-giving and body-building powers of which are already well known, that might well be increased in use just now with considerable advantage.

The time to think about them is now, and your thoughts should be centred at once in our Grocery Department—First Floor—where a large variety of such foods of the very best quality are to be found—priced at LONDON'S LOWEST.

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All advertisements must be prepaid. To ensure insertion in our next issue, all advertisements must be received not later than Tuesday morning. Address, the Advertisement Manager, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICES

ST. MARY - AT - HILL. — Church of the Army Church, Eastcheap. Sundays, 9 and 6, views, orchestra, band. Prebendary Carlile.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORWARD CYMRIC SUFFRAGE UNION will hold a meeting in Hyde Park (near the Marble Arch) on Sunday next at 3. "The Red Dragon leads the way!" "Cymru am byth!"

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE holds public meetings at the Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill Street, Westminster, each Wednesday afternoon at 3.30. Speakers: June 30: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson. Subject: "Feminism and the War Baby." Miss Nina Boyle. Admission free.

WOMEN AND WAR.—Service of Intercession (arranged by the C.L.W.S.), St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, Saturday, June 26, 1915, at 3 p.m. Address by the Rev. O. C. Quick. We earnestly invite all members and friends to attend this Service.

BOARD RESIDENCE, Etc.

ABSOLUTE Privacy, Quietude, and Refinement, no extras. At the Strand Imperial Hotel, opposite Gaiety Theatre, ladies will find the freshest, warmest, daintiest, cosiest quarters; sumptuous bedroom, with h. and c. water fitted; breakfast, bath, attendance, and lights, from 5s. 6d.; en pension 9s.; special terms for long stay; finest English provisions.—Manageress, 4788 Gerrard.

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CROWBOROUGH.—Bracing health resort, and charmingly situated; 2 bedrooms and sitting-room, furnished; suitable for invalid; would take boarders; good cooking.—Whitethorn, Pilmer Road.

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UNFURNISHED SUITE, 3 rooms, 25s. per week, including attendance and use of bathroom; catering at moderate charges; also well-furnished bedroom.—23, Longridge Road, S.W. Telephone Western-6564.

PROFESSIONAL.

MOTOR MECHANISM and DRIVING, advanced Courses. Expert advice on automobile, electrical and mechanical engineering matters.—Miss C. Griff, Consulting Engineer, 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly.

TO GIRLS seeking a useful and attractive calling. Anstey College for Physical Training and Hygiene, Erdington, Warwickshire, offers a full teachers' training in physical culture, including Swedish educational and medical gymnastics, dancing in all its branches, indoor and outdoor games, swimming, hygiene, anatomy, physiology, &c. Good posts obtained after training.

BOOKS

64-PAGE BOOK about HERBS, and HOW TO USE THEM, free. Send for one.—Trimmell, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

EDUCATIONAL

ADA MOORE.—Lessons in Singing, Voice Production, Diction. Visits Brighton, Winchester weekly; West End Studio.—153, Elm Park Mansions, Park Walk, London, S.W.

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